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**CLAYTON COLLECTION
(1836-1884)**

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INTRODUCTION

The Clayton Collection is centered around Jesse Beard, (1811-1863) and his daughter, Caledonia Spurgeon Beard (1842-1869), of Sullivan County, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measures .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in Clayton Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Clayton Collection contains 149 items and two volumes and spans the period 1836-1884. The collection includes two account books, accounts, clippings, correspondence, genealogical data, legal documents, personal notes and essays, promissory notes, school notes and exercises, and school records.

Jesse Beard's business accounts and Caledonia S. Beard's correspondence make up the larger portion of this collection. Most of the letters are written by Caledonia Beard's school friends and concentrate on social activities.

The two account books and the other account statements indicate that Jesse Beard was in business with A.L. Gammon and John Barns. The company, Gammon, Beard, & Barns, evidently bought and sold boats and hauled freight on the Holston River in East Tennessee during the years 1841-1855. Payments were made in cash, produce and goods, and sometimes in services rendered, such as sawing lumber and blacksmithing. The records suggest that Gammon, Beard, and Barns acted independently as well as in partnership.

An index has been compiled for one of the account books. The names provide information about Jesse Beard's debtors and creditors in the vicinity of Jonesboro, Tennessee (Hilton's Post Office).

The Clayton Collection is interesting because it provides information about a small business in a rural area in the nineteenth century.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Jesse Beard

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1811 | August 3, born at St. Clair, Hawkins County, Tennessee |
| 1841 | June 4, married Sarah Spurgeon |
| ca. 1841-1857 | Partnership in boat business with A.L. Gammon and John Barns (Gammon, Beard & Barns) |
| 1842 | November 11, a daughter, Caledonia Spurgeon born |
| 1863 | August 31, died |

Jesse Beard owned two farms, both in Sullivan County, Tennessee. One was a general store near where Jesse Beard lived.

Caledonia Spurgeon Beard

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1842 | November 11, born, probably in Sullivan County, Tennessee |
| 1854-1860 | Attended Holston Baptist Female Academy Institute (Jonesborough, TN) |
| ca. 1861 | Signed contract to teach “spelling, reading, writing, ciphering, and anything essential in a common school” at Helton’s School (Sullivan County, Tennessee) for the term of five months to commence April 1, 1863 |
| 1867 | December 12, married William Amos Hall |
| 1868 | December 1, a son, Edgar Fulton Hall, born |
| 1869 | January 3, died |

Sarah Spurgeon

| | |
|------|---|
| 1817 | January 29, born |
| 1841 | June 4, married Jesse Beard |
| 1842 | November 11, a daughter, Sarah Spurgeon, born |
| 1863 | August 31, death of Jesse Beard |
| 1873 | April 5, bought Patent Deed for "Victory" (bee) Hive from Amos R. Moulton and William Mullennix |
| 1900 | November 26, died. |

Charles H. Spurgeon, famous English Baptist Preacher, was for many years pastor of the great Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. Capt. John Spurgeon, a first cousin of the Rev. Charles Spurgeon, migrated from England in the nineteenth century to the United States and settled in what is now Sullivan County (Tennessee) near the airport. He was a farmer and a miller. He was a member of the old Muddy Creek Baptist Church for many years and served as clerk for some time.

Capt. John Spurgeon, shortly after settling in Sullivan County, acquired 97 acres of land on which was built an old fort which was used as headquarters for the people of that section in their battles with the Indians, and later in the War Between the States.

Mrs. Jessie Mae Hall Clayton believes that the Capt. John Spurgeon mentioned above was either the father of Sarah Spurgeon, or at least a close relative, but there is no proof of this.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel # 1:

Box 1

1. Account Books – Jesse Beard, 1836-1884 (with index and transcription)
2. Account Books – Jesse Beard, c.1856-1863
3. Accounts – Jesse Beard, 1849
4. Accounts – Jesse Beard, 1850-1860
5. Accounts – Bills Paid Out, 1844-1845
6. Accounts – Gammon, Beard & Barnes, 1841-1855
7. Accounts – Gammon, Beard & Barnes, (boat business), 1841-1855
8. Accounts – Gammon, Beard & Barnes w/ Brandon & Lewis Co., 1841
9. Accounts – Gammon, Beard & Barnes w/ Wm. King, 1841-1848
10. Accounts – Gammon, Beard & Barnes – Statement of Freighting, 1841-1846
11. Accounts – Wm. L. and A.L. Gammon
12. Accounts – Miscellaneous, n.d.
13. Accounts – Miscellaneous
14. Accounts – Wm. Phillips, 1855-1857
15. Accounts – Statement of Receipt – James McCall, 1838
16. Clippings – Presentation of Clayton Collection, 1969
17. Correspondence – Beard, Caledonia S.
18. Correspondence – Beard, Jesse and Sarah
19. Correspondence – Blair, F.S.; Cash, Joseph
20. Correspondence – Brown, Sallie M.
21. Correspondence – Calloway, Carrie
22. Correspondence – Cox, Adalene
23. Correspondence – Hopkins, Mary A.
24. Correspondence – Jones, Adah
25. Correspondence – Kuhn, Ruth
26. Correspondence – McKee, Robert C.
27. Correspondence – Miscellaneous
28. Correspondence – Miscellaneous
29. Correspondence – Miscellaneous
30. Correspondence – Miscellaneous
31. Correspondence – Miscellaneous (found in large account book)
32. Correspondence – Morris, Lou R.
33. Correspondence – Murray, Kate L.
34. Correspondence – Russell, Mary L.
35. Correspondence – Spurgin, M.E.
36. Correspondence – Tipton, Lou
37. Correspondence – West, Lizzie J.

38. Genealogical Data – Beard Family
39. Genealogical Data – Miscellaneous, n.d.
40. Legal Documents – Article of Agreement – Gammon, Beard & Barns w/ Brandon & Lewis Co., 1840
41. Legal Documents – Article of Agreement – Beard, Callie S., 1861
42. Legal Documents – Guardianship Papers – Francis Amanda Jane McCall, 1838
43. Legal Documents – Patent Deed – Beard, Sarah 1873
44. Legal Documents – Power of Attorney – Beard, Mariah McCall, 1838
45. Legal Documents – Line of Corner Contract – Gasper Smith and Lucinda White, 1856
46. Legal Documents – Warrant – George Gammon, Jesse Beard, and Clayton D. Abernathy, 1840
47. Personal Notes and Essays – Beard, Caledonia, n.d.
48. Personal Notes and Essays – Beard, Caledonia
49. Personal Notes and Essays – Beard, Caledonia
50. Personal Notes and Essays – Beard, Caledonia
51. Promissory Notes – Sarah Beard to S.J. Millard, 1877
52. Promissory Notes – W.K. Yost to Sary Beard, 1864
53. School Notes and Exercises – Beard, Caledonia, n.d.
54. School Records – Certificate – Beard, Caledonia, 1860
55. School Records – Tuition Receipts – Holston Baptist Female Institute, 1854-1860

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of correspondence in the Clayton Collection together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- B[eard], C[aledonia] to Friends, 1859, (including a draft of the letter) re: writes at request of grandmother with family news, 17
- Beard, Caledonia S. to Martha Johnson, 1855, re: news from school in Jonesboro, 17
- Beard, Jesse and Sarah (2) to Calla Beard, 1860, re: mother's health and wants to know how things are going with studies; will plant corn instead of tobacco and will send box with Mr., Pence, 18
- Blair, F.S. to Cally Beard, n.d., re: asks permission to call, 19
- Brown, Sallie M. to Callie Beard, 1860, re: personal news from school, 20
- Calloway, Carrie to Callie Beard, 1859, re: wrote an earlier letter and now lives in Concord where her father sells goods, 21
- Cash, Joseph (2) to Callie Beard, 1866-1867, re: feels mistreated and wants her to answer this letter; working at carpenter's trade and wants to hear from her, 19
- Cox, Adalene to Callie Beard, 1852, re: at grandmother's house and has seen Billy E. twice, 22
- Hopkins, Mary A. to Sarah Beard, [1884], re: names her children and grandchildren, 23
- Jones, Adah (2) to Callie Beard, 1860, re: relates family news Wheeling, Indiana, 24
- Kuhn, Ruth to Callie [Beard], 1867, re: family news, 25
- McKee, Robert C. to Mariah McCall (Beard), 1837, re: as executor of Joseph McCall's estate in Hamilton County, McKee writes that he is trying to settle the account and advises Mrs. McCall to appoint a guardian for her daughter, 26
- Morris, Lou R. (6) to Cally Beard, 1856-1858, re: personal news, 32
- Murray, Kate L. to Caledonia Beard, 1859, re: personal news and social activities since Christmas, 33
- Russell, Mary L., (2) to Caledonia Beard, 1855-1857, re: disappointed Cally didn't attend her marriage; has daughter named Kate Cornelia Russell, 34
- Spurgin, M.E. to cousin, 1859, re: writes from Madison County, Iowa that Isabell, the baby, and father and not well, 35
- Tipton, Lou to Callie S. Beard, n.d., re: thanks her for letter, 36
- West, Lizzie J. (4) to Callie Beard, 1858, re: heard Mr. Taylor preach and has been quilting; wants news from schoolmates – Martha Poindexter and Matte Brown; has been to Mossy Creek; speaks of Jane Stokely, Lou Morris, and Jane Mills, 37

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